

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 03587 312026Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EB-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 FMC-02 /028 W
-----105079 010520Z /21

R 312013Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO USDOC WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4978
AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

UNCLAS CAIRO 03587

E.O. 11652: N/AO
TAGS: BEXP, EG
SUBJECT: CAIRO INTERNATIONAL FAIR: CONSTRUCTION/SHIPPING

1. DURING MEETING WITH CARLI AND FREIGHT FORWARDER PRIOR TO CALI'S DEPARTURE ON JAN. 27, WE DISCUSSED PROBLEMS OF SHIPPING A-2 SYSTEM FROM ITALY TO CAIRO.

2. FREIGHT FORWARDER ADVISED THAT IF SHIPMENT WERE NOT "ROLL-ON/ROLL-OFF", PERIOD REQUIRED FOR SHIP TO DOCK, UNLOAD ETC. WOULD BE 21-36 DAYS. IF ROLL-ON/ROLL-OFF SERVICE USED, TIME ESTIMATED TO COMPLETE UNLOADING WOULD BE 24-96 HOURS.

3. CARLI HAD RECEIVED TELEX FROM ITALY THAT SYSTEM COULD BE SHIPPED FEB. 10, WITH ETA ALEXANDRIA FEB. 22. CARLI DID NOT KNOW, HOWEVER, IF SHIP LEAVING FEB. 10 (PARA 2 ABOVE) WAS ROLL-ON/ROLL-OFF. HE SAID HE WOULD CHECK AND ADVISE. WE ARE PRESENTLY ATTEMPTING TO CONFIRM CARLI'S SHIPPING PLANS.

4. DUSEX AND DO VISITED ALEXANDRIA JANUARY 28/29. ESTIMATED NUMBER OF SHIPS IN HARBOR WAITING TO OFFLOAD WAS 85-125.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 03587 312026Z

5. IN DISCUSSION WITH MR. ATEF HASSAN, ALEXANDRIA PORT AUTHORITY TRAFFIC MANAGER, HE CONFIRMED TIMES MENTIONED PARA 3 ABOVE. DURING THE MEETING HE SUGGESTED THAT EMBASSY SUBMIT LETTER TO THE MINISTRY OF MARITIME TRANSPORT TO REQUEST PRIORITY HANDLING ON ANY FAIR SHIPMENTS ARRIVING ON CONVENTIONAL VESSELS.

6. CARLI INQUIRED WHETHER IF ROLL-ON/ROLL-OFF SERVICE NOT AVAILABLE, U.S. GOVERNMENT WILLING TO PAY AIR FREIGHT OR OR TO NEGOTIATE AIR FREIGHT COST ABOVE WHAT HE INCLUDED IN BID, SINCE LEAD TIME VERY SHORT AND U.S. PAID AIR FREIGHT LAST YEAR.

7. WE TOLD CARLI THAT WE WOULD ASK CAGNE TO CONSIDER AIR SHIPMENT IN VIEW OF SHORT LEAD TIME HE HAS HAD SINCE RECEIVING NOTICE OF AWARD TO INSPECT ITEMS IN STORAGE, MANUFACTURE ADDITIONAL MATERIAL NEEDED, AND MAKE SHIPMENT FROM ITALY.

8. BECAUSE OF COMMUNICATIONS DIFFICULTIES HERE, DUSEX REQUESTS CAGNE ADVISE CARLI DIRECTLY CONCERNING AIR SHIPMENTS WITH INFO TO DUSEX.

9. D.O. ALSO WORKING ON OTHER POSSIBLE SHIPPING SOLUTIONS BUT PRESENTLY TOO EARLY TO CONFIRM.

10. EMBASSY COMMENT: WHILE EMBASSY WILLING MAKE ALL APPROPRIATE EFFORTS TO EXPEDITE FAIR SHIPMENTS, WE DOUBT THAT MERE LETTER TO MINISTRY OF MARITIME TRANSPORT WOULD BE OF MUCH VALUE. IN ORDER ASSIST, CONSULATE GENERAL IN ALEXANDRIA WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO INTERCEDE DIRECTLY WITH PORT AUTHORITIES. FACT THAT CONSULATE ALREADY PRESSING
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 CAIRO 03587 312026Z

AUTHORITIES TO ACCORD PRIORITY TO SHIPMENTS SUCH AS PL 480 COMMODITIES MAKES IT UNCERTAIN HOW EFFECTIVE PRESSURE FOR ADDITIONAL "PRIORITY" TREATMENT WOULD BE. IF ROLL-ON/ROLL-OFF SERVICE FOR CARLI SHIPMENT NOT POSSIBLE, AIR FREIGHT MAY BE ONLY PRACTICAL MEANS OF INSURING TIMELY ARRIVAL OF SYSTEM.

11. FOR FAIR EXHIBITORS SHIPPING FROM U.S., WE ARE ADVISED THAT "L.A.S.H." SERVICE, AVAILABLE FROM PRUDENTIAL AND PERHAPS OTHER LINES, IS PROBABLY ONLY FEASIBLE METHOD OF SHIPMENT BY SEA FOR ARRIVAL PRIOR TO OPENING OF FAIR. USE OF L.A.S.H. SERVICE MAKES POSSIBLE MUCH MORE RAPID UNLOADING THAN SHIPPING ON CONVENTIONAL VESSELS. BECAUSE OF LIMITATIONS OF PORT FREIGHT HANDLING EQUIPMENT, ALSO RECOMMEND USING 20-FOOT SHIPPING CONTAINERS NOT EXCEEDING 9.5 TONS GROSS WEIGHT. EILTS

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